

of Muehlenstein and Altkirch, and the latest reports show that this force has been successful in driving the Germans from towns and villages in the neighborhood of these places. Now it appears the Germans are becoming alarmed over the safety of Strassburg, the capital of Alsace.

A despatch from Geneva states that there has been a heavy snowfall, that some of the battalions are frozen in two feet of snow and that the weather is bitterly cold. In consequence there has been much suffering, but the French invaders have never relaxed effort. A despatch from Basel says that the Germans are hurrying preparations to defend Strassburg. The suburbs of the city have been flooded and the lines of possible approach by French troops have been mined. Artillery commands every road.

The indications that the Allies have taken the offensive in Flanders and northern France are again supported by the official reports of today and by the confident tone of the despatches sent by correspondents. Many observers here find reason to believe that the Germans have at last been worn down to the defensive. Yesterday and today the French and British troops made important advances along the farther reaches of the front of the Lys in France, driving the Germans back a third of a mile in the latter region, and taking trenches and positions in the region of the Lys that had been held by the Germans for many weeks.

The Official Reports.

The report of the night dealt only with the operations in the north and was as follows:

In Belgium the same activity prevails as that of yesterday. We have strengthened our position north of the ferry house, which we captured yesterday. [This house, mentioned in the afternoon communiqué, stands on the right bank of the Yser Canal about half way between Ypres and Passchendaele.] On the rest of the front there is nothing important to report.

The report of the afternoon was the most positive official statement yet made by the Allies since the drivers and not the driven at the western end of the line as well as at the eastern end. In the old center the Germans continue to batter the Allies, but the French artillery has destroyed some German fortifications in that region. The text of the report was:

To the north of the Lys we have made perceptible progress. Our infantry, making its attack at daybreak, occupied in one operation two lines of trenches. The advance here was one of 500 meters.

A part of the battalion of Weidendorf one kilometer to the northwest of Langemarck remains in our possession.

In front of Poelsee, half way between Dixmude and Ypres, we took possession on the right bank of the canal of a ferry house the occupation of which has been disputed spiritedly for several days. We endeavored, but without success, to compel us by means of a violent attack with heavy artillery to evacuate the conquered bridge.

In the region of Arras and in Champagne there have been intermittent cannonades on both sides. The Germans have been bombarded with particular severity. On our part we have destroyed with our heavy artillery several earth fortifications of the enemy.

In the Argonne the contest continues to be very hotly waged. We have occupied several trenches and repulsed all counter attacks.

In Lorraine and in Alsace there is nothing of importance to report.

It is reported that a gale of snow and sleet is driving over Flanders.

GERMAN ATTACK ENDED.

Col. Roussel Believes Their Offensive in West Has Ceased.

PARIS, Dec. 5.—Lieut. Col. Roussel, writing in a London newspaper, says that there are no developments of importance in Flanders and that the sensational reports of German activity probably were started by the Germans themselves in order to mask their real objective and to hide the withdrawals of reinforcements for Poland. "Whatever the ultimate result of the battle now being fought in Poland," the military critic says, "the Germans are compelled to concentrate their strength there in order by an enormous effort to prevent a catastrophe. To protect themselves in the east they are forced to weaken their effectiveness in the west. Proof of this is found in the comparative inactivity of the Germans in Flanders and the steady advance the French are making in Alsace."

Lieut. Col. Roussel believes that the Germans from now on can do little more than fight on the defensive.

DENY FRENCH GAINS.

Germans Say They Hold Their Own in the Vosges.

BERLIN, via The Hague and London, Dec. 5.—The German army headquarters denies that the French have made any appreciable gains in the lower reaches of the Vosges.

According to an announcement by the headquarters of the Army of the Lower Rhine the French have taken only one post at Upper Alsace, which the Germans abandoned voluntarily, and the Germans still hold Lower Alsace.

ALL BELGIANS MAY FLEE.

Amsterdam Hears People Are at Limit of Endurance.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 5.—The *Telegraph* correspondent in Belgium describes the growing gravity of the plight of the Belgian population owing to the overbearing German domination. He believes the limit of endurance has almost been reached and fears that a general attempt to flee Holland is imminent. German soldiers near Termonde are receiving 3.50 marks (about 55 cents) a day, thanks to a series of letters mailed on the inland waterways. The Germans, the despatch says, are showing ingenuity in new methods for filling the military coffers. For instance, the telephone wires were cut in a village near Termonde. The German soldiers arrested and ordered to pay a cash indemnity or go to jail. He managed to escape. It has since been proved that the Germans deliberately cut the wires.

SAYS AUSTRIA SOUGHT PEACE.

She Considered Czar's Demands Too Stringent, However, Is Report.

By Central News.

BERN, Dec. 5.—A despatch from Prague says that after the fall of Lombardy Austria tried to open negotiations for peace with Russia. The negotiations were broken off, however, in the face of the Russian demands, which were: 1. The cession of Galicia to the proposed Polish kingdom.

2. The cession of Bosnia to Serbia.

3. The constitution of the empire on a federal basis.

4. The grant of autonomy to Bohemia and Croatia.

5. The rupture of the alliance with Germany.

Czech Nobles Urged Ending of War.

PRAGUE, Dec. 5.—The *Journal de Geneve* publishes a letter from a reliable Prague correspondent asserting that Prince von Thurn, lieutenant-governor of Bohemia, defended a deputation of Czech nobles which called on the Archduke Charles Francis Joseph and urged him to conclude peace. The Archduke appeared to favor the idea.

Call for New Landsturm Class.

BERN, Dec. 5.—Members of the Landsturm between the ages of 20 and 25 years have been called to the colors.

GERMANS CLAIM SUCCESS AGAIN BELGIAN LINES

Berlin Report Says French Attacks in Flanders Were Futile.

TELLS OF FIGHTING TO SOUTH OF METZ

BERLIN, via wireless to London, Dec. 5.—An official statement given out this afternoon at army headquarters reports progress of the German forces in the west and a favorable situation in the east. The statement follows:

French attacks yesterday in Flanders and the south of Metz were repulsed. We made progress at La Bassée, in the forest of the Argonne and in the region southwest of Altkirch.

In the fighting to the east of the Mazurian Lakes the situation is favorable for us, and in minor operations we took 1,200 prisoners. Our operations in Poland are taking a favorable course. The *Corriere della Sera* estimates that the losses among the French are at least 50 per cent. of those engaged in the war and that losses of even greater proportions have been suffered by the territories.

THE AUSTRIAN REPORT.

Vienna Tells of Small Battles in West Galicia.

VIENNA, Dec. 5.—An official statement issued today said:

Nothing of importance occurred in the Carpathians yesterday. In west Galicia small battles developed in the Austrian zone. The situation in south Poland remains unchanged. The battle in north Poland continues.

BOMBS ON FREIBURG.

Berlin Denies Reported Aerial Attack on Krupp Plant.

BERLIN, Dec. 4, via The Hague and London, Dec. 5.—Hostile aviators flew over Freiburg, Baden, near the Swiss frontier, this afternoon and dropped four bombs, apparently in an effort to destroy the Krupp plant. The report that a foreign aviator had bombed the Krupp plant at Essen was officially denied in a statement issued today.

The report of the dropping of bombs on the Krupp plant was contained in a Berlin despatch received at The Hague on December 4 and forwarded to London by the correspondent of the *Exchange Telegraph* Company. According to the report the aviator escaped unhurt and the extent of the damage done by his bombs had not been ascertained.

SAYS U. S. HELPS ALLIES.

German Writer Asserts Business Men Here Are Not Neutral.

BERLIN, via The Hague and London, Dec. 5.—Count Reventlow, the naval critic, writing in the *Tagesspiegel* today, says that German business men are obtaining materials of war from America, while Germany is not enjoying the same privilege. "Of England and France," he says, "are willing to supply the United States as much as possible without departing from their policy of starving Germany at the expense of small neutral nations. The reason is that both countries are ordered many million dollars' worth of materials in the United States and America is working feverishly to supply the wants of both sides. The British attitude is that of a man who has a gun and a woolen coat, shoe and horsewhom to a cable submarine." "A submarine transported in parts, according to the transatlantic viewpoint, does not constitute contraband of war, nor does the fabrication there for the use of belligerents amount to a breach of neutrality."

"Business considerations naturally dominate the ideas of contraband and the treatment of the American merchant marine."

INTERN BRITISH AVIATOR.

Germans Confine Lieutenant-Commander Briggs at Ungolstadt.

BERLIN, via The Hague and London, Dec. 5.—The British aviator, who was captured during the aeroplane raid on Friedrichshafen, has been interned in the fortress at Ungolstadt.

EXPECT SHORT RATIONS.

Newspaper Suppressed for Printing Chancellor's Warning to Germany.

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 5.—One issue of the *Vossische Zeitung* has been suppressed by the military authorities for publishing a statement made by Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg at a private meeting of a committee of the Reichstag. The statement was:

"It is quite certain that the war will last a very long time. The German nation must be prepared to live on short rations."

GERMANY NEEDS METAL.

Customs Authorities Issue Call for Old Coins.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Dec. 5.—The Copenhagen correspondent of the *Daily Mail* telegraphs a request eloquent of Germany's straits has been issued by the customs administration in Berlin that all old coins, gold and silver articles, pieces of tin, lead, copper, brass, tinfall and collapsible tubes be collected for the sake of the industries suffering from the war.

School teachers especially are invited to encourage their children to become collectors of these materials.

SUBMARINE TWICE ESCAPES.

German Boat Evades Destroyers After Failure to Torpedo Them.

BORDEAUX, Dec. 5.—A statement issued by the Ministry of Marine today says that the German submarine U-21 in sinking the steamers *Malachite* and *Primo*, off Havre recently, demonstrated the possibilities of submarines as commerce destroyers.

The sinking of the *Malachite* on November 23, the statement says, a French torpedo boat gave chase to the U-21 and sighted it two days later, but the submarine fled three days and again made an unsuccessful attempt to torpedo her pursuers and then escaped to the north-west.

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PORTUGUESE MINISTERS RESIGN THEIR POSTS

Members Object to Terms of the Interpolation Regarding Mobilization.

LISBON, via London, Dec. 5.—Premier Machado announced at the closing session of Parliament today the resignation of the Portuguese Cabinet in a body. The resignations, he said, were due to objections to the terms of interpolation of the Ministry regarding the mobilization decree.

HAS NOTHING TO WIN.

Lisbon, Nov. 25.—The Portuguese Parliament has empowered the Government to intervene in the European war when it deems such action expedient, and a decree for mobilization has been issued.

The monarchists opposed Portugal's participation in the conflict consistently, but were finally won over by reports, which are still unconfirmed, that the Germans have invaded Portuguese possessions in Africa.

Just who is responsible for Portugal's imminent entry into the war is a question of dispute. The Portuguese insist that England asked for their aid, but in such a manner as to make it appear that Portugal took the initiative and volunteered her services. The British attitude, as understood here, is that Great Britain had nothing to do with Portugal's decision.

In entering the war Portugal appears to be entering to lose and nothing to gain. If the Allies win her African and other possessions are assured to her whether she enters the war or not. If Germany wins Portugal's colonial possessions will be worth nothing. When you ask Portuguese officials what Portugal is going to fight for, they point to the 400-year-old alliance and say, "England asked us."

The whole truth of the matter is that Portuguese officials are so flattered by England's request that they cannot resist, despite the fact that the country is almost bankrupt.

NO GERMAN APOLOGY.

Berlin, Dec. 5, by wireless to London.—Denial was made here today of a report that Germany has apologized to Portugal for an incident in Angola.

FEARS FOR CHILEAN WARSHIP.

No Word of Vessel Sent to Look for German Naval Base.

SANTIAGO, Chile, Dec. 5.—Anxiety is felt for the safety of the Chilean training ship *General Baquedano*, which was sent out to investigate reports that the Germans were violating Chilean neutrality by establishing a naval base in the Juan Fernandez Islands.

The ship was expected to return on November 26, but no word has been received from her. A cruiser was sent out today to search for her.

CHILEANS SEIZE GERMAN BOAT.

Provisions for Transport Captured in Santiago Raid.

SANTIAGO, Chile, Dec. 5.—Chilean police raided the waterfront today and captured a cutter containing eight men with provisions and life buoys belonging to the German transport *Prinz Eitel*. The cutter was alongside the German steamer *Goettinger*.

The German Consul and the local manager of the Kosmos Line were aboard the *Goettinger*.

MORE MEN NEEDED.

Cost Defences Not Adequately Manned, Says Gen. Weaver.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—An urgent recommendation was made to Congress today by Gen. M. W. Weaver, head of the new Artillery, for more officers and men, for that branch of the service. He recommended the increase provide for at least 504 officers and 10,000 men.

"We have the best coast defense material in the world and the only reason it is not efficient is because it is not properly manned," said the general in his hearing before the House Committee on Military Affairs, which was at work today on the army appropriation bill, the Military Academy bill and the coast fortification bill. It was his last measure to which the witness was addressing himself.

Gen. Weaver explained that men had been withdrawn from the coast defense in the United States to be sent to Hawaii, the Philippines and the Canal Zone. Gen. Weaver admitted that the guns used in the coast defense are old and that the superior range finding equipment, heavier projectiles and long range would make it competent to resist any attacking force.

Gen. Weaver hinted that there was a lack of ammunition. He also admitted that when questioned about his not taken into consideration the great siege gun brought into action in the European war by the German forces.

U. S. DEFENCE COUNCIL IS PROPOSED

Continued from First Page.

It, the Kaiser says he did not start it, and I am inclined to believe him. It is simply a founding, and we don't want any more of it."

Dr. Jordan paid a high tribute to President Wilson, who has recommended that the United States do nothing now but "sit tight."

Col. Thompson Opposes View.

Col. Thompson said there were two kinds of peace at any price. The first was, like himself, willing to undergo any sacrifice rather than have his home invaded and broken up by a foreign invader. He did not care to speak of the other kind.

It was all very well to speak of the dreams of peace. All men have them, but they could not get away from the fact that in the last 5,000 years there have not been three years in the world without a war. War was caused by nothing except the desire for power. All men have them, but they could not get away from the fact that in the last 5,000 years there have not been three years in the world without a war.

The United States, he said, spends \$140,000,000 a year on its navy. This is a great sum, almost as much as the country spends on automobile tires. If it does not accomplish the object for which it is intended, then the money is badly spent. Col. Thompson wanted a council of defense, duly selected, which would have assistance of experts in all lines.

Secretary Roosevelt regretted that he could not wholly divorce himself from his official position, because he would then be able to say what was in his heart. "I have a question," he said, "Roosevelt, when we are willing today to exclude the whole race has reached the point where we can leave our homes and our families totally unprotected against attack by sea. If we have not reached that point, then let us prepare."

Plans for Big Submarines.

Mr. Roosevelt referred to statements that the United States had torpedoes with a range of 15 miles. "So have all the other nations," he said. "The nations to be feared were planning 1,200-ton submarines."

You know, we have about 2,000 miles of coast on our eastern boundary," he continued. "We have very effective coast defenses for 200 miles of it. That is all. We spend \$140,000,000 a year on our navy, but that is in appropriations in Congress. We have a real question, go for this and so much for that. If we received this money under the budget system, I am satisfied that we could save \$5,000,000 a year."

Mr. Roosevelt then referred to the new systems of Switzerland and Australia. Switzerland, he said, has a population of nearly 4,000,000, with a population of nearly 500,000. Australia has a reserve created by its labor party and it means that men are physically trained from their childhood. "And I regret to have to say," he added, "that the training is how to put a cartridge into a gun."

Facing New Problems.

Mr. Williams, in introducing the resolutions, said:

"The United States now faces in its defense a wholly new problem. The conditions of national defense have been radically changed by the past three months. Last July the whole civilized world, military expert and untrained men alike, believed that a fortress adequately built and adequately armed could defeat the attack of an advancing army. The expert told us that the superdreadnought battleship was a weapon of defense upon the high seas which no stronger weapon could defeat except a stronger force of superdreadnoughts. Men still believed four months ago that the defense of a city and the control of territory by an armed force was still under the old conditions. The great war has vitally altered all these conditions. The fort has ceased to be a defense. The modern weapons can be destroyed so easily that the march of an invading army will scarcely be arrested. This has proved to be as true of French forts as of Belgian. The security of the fort is gone. It may be an army, but without an army it is useless."

"The submarine has shown that the dreadnought and superdreadnought are vulnerable as no one before believed. The ships of the sea are still necessary, are no longer a safeguard. Lastly, the use of modern explosives on a large scale for Zeppelins, from aeroplanes with modern artillery or employed upon the ground by a force temporarily occupying a city, has demonstrated that houses, villages, cities and entire quarters of a city can be ruthlessly destroyed on a scale which quenches resistance."

"The old plan carried out in our Revolution and used more or less in all wars under which citizens can continue a struggle for their rights and liberties. No country will continue fighting in this fashion when modern explosives enable the invading army instantly to wipe out the offending house, village, town or quarter of a city."

"Out of all this woe only one thing has emerged, still a national defense, still safeguarding the security and independence of the United States. It is the mobilization of the people, equipped, officered and equal to the new warfare of trenches, extended as in France over a line of 300 miles."

"All else, from dreadnought and superdreadnought and citizen warfare are on the scrap heap. An army cannot be made in a day. Unless a nation is provided with a mobile army, drilled and officered, strong enough to fight wherever the occupation of its territory by an invading force equal to the task is certain, its dreadnoughts can be destroyed."

"In view of all these facts, and in view also of the discussion this afternoon in which so many men of the foremost rank in our national life have agreed, from widely different standpoints, on the necessity of creating and rendering efficient our national defense, I move this resolution:

"Resolved, That the National Civic Federation recommends that the Congress create by law a council of national defense, to consider, decide and report to the Congress the legislation necessary to provide for the national defense without waste or unnecessary expense; their recommendations shall be at their discretion, but as a recommendation shall aim to secure efficiency of the existing forces on land and sea and a definite permanent policy to insure peace and that the executive council of the National Civic Federation be requested to appoint a commission to advocate the creation of such a council of national defense."

This resolution was passed without a dissenting voice.

DEFENCE INQUIRY NEED

Prominent Men Express Views on Need of Action

The question of the preparedness of the United States against a foreign foe has attracted through the various movements calling upon Congress for a thorough investigation such widespread and vital interest on the part of the American people that THE SUN has endeavored to present a crystallization of sentiment by obtaining the views of a number of prominent citizens.

These opinions, which are printed today, are those of men high in governmental, professional and business activity. It will be noted that the almost unanimous sentiment is in favor of an immediate and searching investigation and that the people have a right to know the truth.

DICKINSON URGES BOARD OF DEFENCE

By JACOB MCG. DICKINSON, Ex-Secretary of War.

We have had no clear, consistent policy for the development of an adequate mobile army, but have relied largely upon such development when the exigencies of actual war shall demand it. If we should become involved in war with a first class Power we will be subjected to the gravest danger. Therefore, while I have been and am now an earnest advocate of peace, I am equally as earnestly and as definitely a supporter of the policy of a mobile army.

Our deficiencies, though not so glaring as they are, are equally clear in respect to our coast defenses and navy. To meet such deficiencies and put our country on a safe basis against possible invasion by sea, it is imperative that we should, through Congressional action, establish a continuing board charged with the consideration of the public defense and the duty of making such recommendations from time to time as conditions may demand.

Entertained these views before the present war came about and think that when it comes to the question of such a plan should be proceeded with and continued until such time as the nations of the earth can be brought to concurrent action in disarmament to which possible events of the present war may largely contribute.

LEAVE IT TO PEOPLE, HEAD OF UNION LEAGUE CLUB FAVORS MOVE

By SAMUEL W. FAIRCHILD, President of the Union League Club.

I am thoroughly in accord with the movement and I think the proposed investigation is unquestionably the best way. I do not agree with Andrew Carnegie that we ought to sit still and do nothing for defense. The Government has been considering for years building fortifications at Cape Henry, and I believe it has finally decided to go ahead. This is a step in the right direction.

I think it is time we looked the ground over and took an account of stock. We ought to know where we are at. We have a wonderful coast from Maine to Florida, and we ought to have it adequately protected. I find that the general opinion among those with whom I come in contact is about the same as my own.

Another point to be remembered now is that heretofore our attitude among the world powers has been caused by the delicate sensitive balance of European power. No one Power would think of involving us in trouble for fear of the action of the others.

In consequence of the war, for some time to come this balance of power is likely to be vitally altered. There may be a dominating Power and we may find ourselves confronted by new relations. Against that statement it is argued that as a result of this war the various Powers will be so exhausted that they will be unable to do much for years. History refutes that argument, I think. It has taught that long and tedious wars do not discourage the victory; the contrary is the case.

It seems to me foolish that we should spend the large sums of money we are spending now when every one admits we do not attain that which we here to attain. We should either go entirely on a peace basis, trusting to the forbearance of all nations, or we should perfect a reasonable defense.

DANIELS TO KEEP MUM. Won't Answer Critics Before His Report Is Published.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Secretary Daniels announced today that he would issue no more statements in reply to certain specific charges against the fitness of the navy until his annual report has been made public.

Mr. Daniels' report will be published on December 12 and next week he will appear before the House Committee on Naval Affairs in connection with the preparation of the navy appropriation bill. The Secretary's announcement was made in view of the fact that he has been most profuse with statements denying charges made by Representative Gardner, Senator Lodge and others respecting the efficiency of the navy. This was ample evidence that these repeated charges against the state of the navy disturbed Mr. Daniels, though at all times he tried to answer "all questions put to him on the subject."

The occasion of this new attitude by what was announced to be the first of a series of articles which would tell the truth as to the army and navy. This article charged that only one submarine of four at the Panama Canal, is fit for service.

Mr. Daniels not only refused to make any statement about this and other charges relating to submarines contained in the article, but gave no authority to any officer in the Navy Department to make any statement on the subject.

It was explained that no statement will be authorized until accurate data covering the whole submarine question can be compiled, which will be so complete as to leave nothing unanswered. It was further stated that the war records and movements of submarines are among the few things about the navy which it is possible to keep from becoming public information and that no officer would venture any statement on the subject without special authority from the Secretary.

On the other hand there is reason to believe that the condition of the submarine fleet of the Atlantic is not such as is desired by the Navy Department or responsible officers of the fleet. Details of the situation as to submarines are carefully guarded. Mr. Daniels, however, promises that very soon the public will have the whole truth as to every detail of the condition of the navy.

Many of those best informed about the navy believe that the agitation surrounding it in the hope that it will lead to an upsetting of some of the present policies in Mr. Daniels' office.

BIG ARMAMENTS NOT WAR'S CAUSE

Navy League Says It Should Be Blamed on Human Greed and Hatred.

CRITICAL OF GERMANY

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—A statement was made public tonight by the Navy League in which the contention was made in a striking manner that armament by a nation does not necessarily lead to war.

The argument was advanced that "only through the gradual concentration of the preponderant military strength into the hands of the most pacific communities can the peace of the world be secured."

The league asks this question, "Was not the European war brought on by excessive armament?" In answering this question the league suggests that a community in order to avoid trouble might do away with its police force, and all the people in such a community "leave the locks of their doors."

The league is rather critical in its reference to Germany, declaring that the violation by Germany of the neutrality of Belgium, in spite of her pledged word, brought Great Britain "into the war."

The league's statement says in part: "Excessive armaments, no doubt an evil thing in themselves, have been the real cause of war, but merely its tool. It is necessary, as a means to an end only, the cause of any war lies in the character and intentions of those who make it, and it is manifestly wrong to charge on self-interest, covetousness, injustice and brutality to incite powder and shot and fail to hold man himself solely responsible."

"The armaments of the nations now engaged in war have grown gradually and in proportion as the increase of one Power's forces challenged its rivals to make good the difference. The word 'excessive' is relative. Armaments increase, but the last weapons used in fighting before having recourse to their native endeavor to defeat their rivals in other ways, such as commerce, tariffs and colonization. Armies are then obviously not the causes of war, but merely tools invented to carry